



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Central Valley Operations Office  
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 300  
Sacramento, California 95821

IN REPLY  
REFER TO:

CVO-400  
ENV-4.10

APR 13 2000

Mr. Gary Stern  
Supervising Biologist  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325  
Santa Rosa, California 95404-6528

Subject: Exceedence of "Redlight" of Incidental Take of Winter-Run Chinook Salmon at  
Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) Export Facilities

Dear Mr. Stern:

This letter is to inform the National Marine Fisheries Service that the "redlight" value for the incidental loss of non-coded wire tagged winter-run sized chinook salmon of 5,794 at the CVP/SWP export facilities was exceeded on April 10, 2000. The current loss figure, according to our records, is 5,818. (The Department of Fish and Game's figure is 5,812; there are typically minor differences between the two figures that are resolved after several days.)

This matter was discussed in the Data Assessment Team (DAT) conference call on April 12, 2000. It was noted that the incidental loss of winter-run sized chinook salmon at the CVP/SWP export facilities has become very low in the last several weeks and that the projects will shortly begin pumping reductions associated with the Vernalis Adaptive Management Program on the San Joaquin River. The consensus of DAT discussion was that no further actions were necessary at this time with respect to winter-run chinook salmon.

If there is any further information we can provide you, please call me at (916) 979-2180 or Larry Gage at (916) 574-2650.

Sincerely,

*Lowell F. Ploss*  
for Lowell F. Ploss  
Operations Manager

cc: Mr. James Lecky  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
501 West Ocean Blvd, Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

Mr. Steve Macaulay  
Deputy Director  
California Department of Water Resources  
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Mr. James White  
California Department of Fish and Game  
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1416 Ninth Street  
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
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Mr. Larry Gage  
SWP Operations Control Office  
3310 El Camino Avenue  
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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
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APR 24 2000

F/SW03:GRS

Mr. Lowell Ploss  
Operations Manager  
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Central Valley Operations Office  
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 300  
Sacramento, California 95821

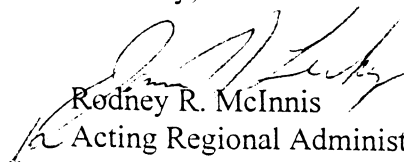
Dear Mr. Ploss:

Thank you for your letter of April 13, 2000, regarding the exceedance of the "red light" value for the incidental take of endangered winter-run chinook salmon at the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) export facilities in the south Delta. Based on the best available information, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) estimated the 1999 winter-run chinook production in the upper Sacramento River and set the "red light" value for the period of October 1, 1999, to May 31, 2000, at 5,794 wild winter-run chinook salmon. On April 10, 2000, estimated winter-run chinook losses at the CVP and SWP Delta fish collection facilities exceeded this value.

As presented in your letter, this matter was discussed with the Data Assessment Team (DAT) on April 12, 2000, and the DAT did not recommend a change in Delta export operations in response to the exceedance of the winter-run chinook "red light". The NMFS concurred with DAT that no further actions were necessary at this time with respect to winter-run chinook. Based on historical and current fisheries monitoring results, winter-run chinook smolts have generally completed their outmigration through the Delta to the ocean by mid-April. Observations at the Delta fish collection facilities during the past week confirm this. For the few winter-run smolts that remain to pass through the Delta during April and early May, the scheduled CVP/SWP export reductions for the Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan will provide suitable conditions for passage and smolt survival through the Delta.

Mr. Gary Stern of my staff will continue to work with the DAT for the remainder of this spring to monitor fish losses at the Delta fish facilities. If you have questions concerning these comments, please contact Mr. Stern at (707) 575-6060.

Sincerely,

  
Rodney R. McInnis  
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: S. Macaulay - DWR  
W. White - USFWS  
R. Broddrick - DFG



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